

**Burwell Bassett to George Washington, December 21, 1771, two same date, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

**FROM BURWELL BASSETT, ESQ. <sup>1</sup>**

ELTHAM 21 Decr. 1771

DEAR SIR

Your favour of the 15 Inst I receive in Wmsburg yesterday, As to the Candidates for Valentine Place Graves you know as much of as I do & Hill I know nothing of But what I heard Mr Claiborne say, There has been a great many people apply'd to me to recommend them, But as I new nothing of them but by the recommendation they brought with them from Gentlemen I advise them to apply to you that you was well acquainted with The Gentleman that recommended them &, that I could say nothing more to them But as I find none of these has been with you I will just mention a few of them Mr Joseph Eggleston of James City recommended by Mr Ralph Wormly Sen & Mr John Cooke Booth of James City recommended by Mr John Sherman & Mr Nicholas, Mr Pendleton informed me that Colo B Moore & himself had recommended his Brother John Pendleton, I will inquire perticularly into James Hill character & give you the best information I can get, I went to the Plantation where Valentine Died & found that he had put his Corn in the Open Tobo Houses & that it laid at the mercy of every person that was rogue Enough to take the advantage of it, I sent for the Overseer from the Marsh Quarter & order him to have the houses mended up & Locks put on the doors, which he informd me to day was done I also

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made him take a perticular Account of all the Negroes & Stocks of all sorts that are at the plantations about Wmsburg & bring it to me, which I intended to inclos'd to you but find it will make my letter two large so shall keep them till I have the pleasure of seeing you, If there is any thing I can do for you before you fix on a manager please to command me.—

The Assembly is to meet the six of February as you will see by the Papers when we hope to have the pleasure of yours & Mrs Washingtons Company I do assure you nothing would give me so much pleasure as to be able to come to M Vernon, But I am so unwell that I must defer that pleasure till the Spring of the year when I hope I shall be able to come without endangering my health, Mrs Bassett and the little ones are pretty well and join me in Love & best Wishes to the family at M Vernon I am

Dr Sir Yr Most Affect & obt Servt BURL BASSETT

1 Hon. Burwell Bassett, of Eltham, New Kent County, born in 1734; married Anna Maria Dandridge, sister of Martha Washington. He was a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses from 1764 until the Revolution.